RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND:

The Office of Economic Analysis, Evaluation, and Modeling (OEM) is part of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). OEM broadly supports the requirement to measure, analyze, and evaluate the adoption and value of health IT. The overarching goals for ONC are:

1. Achieve adoption and information exchange through meaningful use of health IT
2. Improve care improve population health, and reduce health care costs through the use of health IT
3. Inspire confidence and trust in health IT
4. Empower individuals with health IT to improve their health and the health care system
5. Achieve rapid learning and technological advancement

OEM supports ONC's mission in the following ways:

1. Monitoring electronic health record (EHR) adoption and use
2. Promoting research on and understanding of the value of health IT
3. Evaluating health IT initiatives

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to allow OEM to generate research on and foster awareness of the value of health IT. This will be accomplished primarily through funding innovative research using existing or rapidly-collected data to examine health IT outcomes. Research should focus on the adoption and value of electronic health records (EHR), health information exchange (HIE), achievement of Meaningful Use, the National Quality Strategy, and/or the Partnership for Patients. Additionally, we are interested in research that examines the financial sustainability of health information exchange and benefits from consumer e-health applications. ONC is especially interested in follow-up data from prior studies of health IT interventions that showed process changes.

RESEARCH AREAS OF INTEREST:

Our main areas of interest are:

1. Patient health outcomes associated with Health IT interventions, HIE, or Health IT-enabled interventions
2. Cost/Efficiency outcomes
3. Business case/ financial sustainability of health information exchange

Specifically, we are interested in establishing the value of health IT through examining its impact on outcomes related to:

- patient health
- costs and care utilization
- quality metrics
- coordination of care
- disease and case management
- vulnerable populations
- public health measures
- HHS National Quality Strategy
- Partnership for Patients

We are also interested in research to identify, evaluate, and recommend best practices from current innovators in health information exchange.

POTENTIAL SOURCES OF DATA:

Subject to our own data use agreements with data owners, ONC may be able to facilitate the provision of these data and/or provide it at low or no cost. Proposals should clearly state assumptions about data acquisition and costs.

Existing public and/or nationally-representative data sources available to ONC contracts include:

- AHA survey
- NAMCS Survey and IT supplement
- NHAMCS survey
- HIMSS Analytics Database
- SureScripts
- SK&A physician data

PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS:

This opportunity will be funded through an IDIQ mechanism with task orders issued for individual projects with the intent to obligate FY2012 funds (after October 1, 2011). Researchers are asked to follow the specific outline and format instructions described below in preparing their proposals:

A. Discussion and Understanding of proposed research area
B. Proposed project should include research aims, methods (study design, use of existing data sources/rapidly collected data, sample/study population, analysis plan), timeline and budget; description of deliverables and dissemination plan (e.g. briefs, papers for peer-reviewed publication).
C. Qualifications and Past Performance (should include prior publications and research funding)
D. Management and Staffing Plan
E. Personnel/Staff Qualifications and experience conducting research related to health IT

The narrative portion of the technical proposal is limited to fifteen (15) pages. Cover pages, tables of contents, listing of figures, indices, and résumés of proposed personnel will not be included in the page count.

FUNDING PERIOD:

ONC expects to make multiple awards under this IDIQ to support the innovative uses of data to look at Health IT outcomes. Master task orders will fund projects for one year with possible opportunities for renewal.

If you would like to be notified when this opportunity becomes available please contact
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